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CN 6581 File
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TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

AZ 092

FROM
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

12065:
E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

GDS 8/13/85 (HALLMAN, WILLIAM H.) OR-P
SHUM AR
(U) POLICE RAID TWO HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO : AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s):
Declassify: () In Part ☒ In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

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AMB
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[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 6581

1. (U) Acting upon a judge's order, the police late on the afternoon of August 10 raided the office of the League for the Rights of Man and the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights. At the office of the League the police briefly arrested a volunteer worker, Monica Cordoba. (Ms. Cordoba was released later the same day, according to a Permanent Assembly source.) The Buenos Aires Herald cited "court sources" as reporting that the judge ordered a police investigation after receiving what he believed was a phony or exaggerated habeas corpus writ from the mother of a disappeared person. The raid was officially made

DRAFTED BY:
POLCOUNS:WHHallman:jk

DRAFTING DATE
8/13/79

TEL. EXT.
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CLEARANCES:

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

50153-101

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to investigate "alleged fraud in the legal process" and "incitement to present false evidence."

2. (U) The police raid at the office of the League commenced at 12 noon and lasted until 4. The police examined carefully all documents and carried away 10 large packages of files which contained, according to a League official, lists of people reported to have disappeared.

3. (U) The police, headed by the chief of the federal crime division, then visited ^{the} office of the Assembly between 4:40 and 6:30 pm. Again according to the Herald, about 25-30 people were detained for identification while the police went through files. Printed material distributed publicly by the Assembly was confiscated but no arrests were made. Assembly members Conte MacDonald and Mignone, who were present when the police arrived, showed the police through the offices and reported that at all times members of the police force behaved "correctly."

4. (U) The allegation of fraud and incitement to present false evidence ~~apparently~~ derives from the (apparently recently made -- we are checking on this) statement/of a woman, Blanca Dolira Marzan de Galizzi, who visited the League to report the disappearance of her daughter in Bahia Blanca on May 22, 1976. According to reports given to police the mother of the young woman was urged to give imaginary data to judicial

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authorities and to write letters to various international organizations, distorting the true circumstances of her daughter's disappearance. The mother has apparently accused a League official of having added to her petition allegations that she did not in fact make.


5. (U) The raid on the two offices came one day short of two weeks after a publication listing the disappeared -- prepared by the Permanent Assembly, the League for Human Rights and the Ecumenical Movement for Human Rights -- was confiscated at the Alemann Printing Company. According to ^{the} Buenos Aires Herald, police also intended on Saturday to visit the office of the Ecumenical Movement, but found the place closed when they arrived there.

6. **COMMENT:** There is a chance that a judge in this case acted independently -- as one did in the "Caputo Case." Another charitable explanation for the police raids might be that the government -- beleaguered with criticism by hardline elements of the military forces, who are crying "treachery" at the forthcoming visit of the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights -- decided to allow some steam to be let off through relatively "harmless" harrassment of human rights organizations. A League officer has

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spoken of "intrigue" in the case of the disappeared woman's mother's testimony, and that too cannot be discounted, nor, for that matter, the possibility that an employee of the League did in fact incite a fraudulent report. Whatever ^{their} ~~the~~ origins it is ^{could} nevertheless true that these events ~~have~~ have a chilling effect upon people who might have intended to give testimony to the Inter-American Commission.

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